

CENSORSHIP

Answer the questions below, writing a paragraph for each.

Dictionary definition

Censor: A person authorised to examine films, letters, or publications, in order to ban or cut anything considered obscene or objectionable.

Task 1

- 1) Read the definition above. Look up any words that you don't understand.
- 2) Think back to the past week. How many times have you been affected by censorship? (You might not have been able to watch a film, read a book, go to the cinema or watch TV after a certain time.)
- 3) Why do you think that you were not allowed to do any of these things?
- 4) Do you think that censorship is important, or should we be allowed to watch and do the things that we want to do?

CENSORSHIP

Read the extract below, which comes from a novel called *Nineteen Eighty-Four*.

The Ministry of Truth - Minitrue, in Newspeak - was startlingly different from any other object in sight. It was an enormous pyramidal structure of glittering white concrete, soaring up, terrace after terrace, 300 metres into the air. From where Winston stood it was just possible to read, picked out on its white face in elegant lettering, the three slogans of the Party:

WAR IS PEACE
FREEDOM IS SLAVERY
IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH

Tasks

- 1) Draw a picture of what you think the building looks like.
- 2) Do you think that the building is a friendly place or not? Would you like to visit a building like this? Why? (Or why not?)
- 3) What is the building?
- 4) The three slogans of the party are at the bottom of the extract. What is unusual about the three slogans?
- 5) What is ignorance? Is it good to be ignorant? Why do you think that the party has chosen this slogan? What does it tell you about them?

The Truman Show

Answer the following questions:

- 1) List five reasons why Truman should enter the real world.
- 2) List five reasons why Truman should not enter the real world.
- 3) What difficulties do you think Truman will face if he enters the real world?
- 4) Write an entry in Truman's diary a week after he has entered the real world.
 - What difficulties does he face?
 - What is he pleased about?
 - How does he feel about the people he has left behind (Meryl, Christof, Marlon)?

The diary entry should be about a page long.

CLASS DEBATE

WAS CHRISTOF RIGHT WHEN HE TRIED TO STOP TRUMAN ENTERING THE REAL WORLD?

Do the following:

- 1) Make a list of ten reasons Christof was right to stop Truman from entering the real world.
- 2) Make a list of ten reasons Christof was wrong to stop Truman from entering the real world.
- 3) Do you think that Truman will survive in the real world?

In your groups:

Groups A and B: Brainstorm all the reasons Christof was right to stop Truman entering the real world.

Groups C and D: Brainstorm all the reasons Christof was wrong to stop Truman entering the real world.

After you have completed the brainstorms, your groups will mix and match.

Group A (Christof was right) will join with Group C (Christof was wrong)

Group B (Christof was right) will join with Group D (Christof was wrong)

You will now rehearse a Jerry Springer style debate. (Group A arguing with Group C, Group B arguing with Group D.) This must be at least ten minutes long and will be shown to the rest of the class. It will be assessed as a Speaking and Listening activity.

Suggested characters: Jerry Springer, Sylvia, Meryl, Christof, producers of the show (×2), Truman, Truman's mum, Truman's dad, Truman's best friend, viewers of the show etc.

Do you think that Christof is right to prevent Truman entering the real world?

Name:

Use these ideas to give a structure or shape to your essay: don't forget that you can add extra points if you want to. When you copy up remember to put examples from the film with the point that they prove.

Introduction

Briefly introduce your reader to:

- the story and what it's about
- Truman and Christof and their place within the text
- the relevance of the story to today's society

Main ideas

Paragraph 'prompt' point	Your ideas in these points [in your own words]	Examples from the film
1) Truman: did he know what is happening to him? Does he have any control over what happens to him? How much control does Christof have over Truman?		

<p>2) Why is Christof keeping Truman sheltered from the real world? Consider: money/greed protection security fame fear</p>		
<p>3) Why does Truman want to leave? Consider: desire to travel to Fiji; knew that something was wrong; wanted freedom</p>		
<p>4) How does Sylvia try to help Truman?</p>		
<p>5) What happens when Truman tries to leave?</p>		

6) The final scene involving Truman: what does Christof say? Why and how is he acting like God? Will Truman survive in the real world?		
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Conclusion

Do you think that Christof is right to prevent Truman entering the real world? Why?